

## Swan Sonnenschein & Company Archive

### SSC

The collection contains letter books 1878-1911 (MS 3280), together with some incoming correspondence 1882-1916 (MS 4058).

Minute books of Directors' meetings 1895-1913 are held in the Allen & Unwin Ledgers series numbers AU A/258-262, account books 1884-1903 are held in the Allen & Unwin Ledger series numbers AU A/269-270), articles of association 1895, and balance sheets 1902-1910.

The Collection covers the year's 1878-1916.

The physical extent of the collection is 51 volumes.

#### Introduction

William Swan Sonnenschein was born in 1855, third of the six children of Adolphus Sonnenschein, a teacher and writer of textbooks originally from Moravia, and his first wife Sarah Robinson Stallybrass. William's name derived from the fact that his maternal grandfather, Edward Stallybrass, had been a missionary to Mongolia with William Swan and they worked on a Mongolian translation of the New Testament together.

As a young man William was apprenticed to the firm of Williams and Norgate where he gained experience of second hand bookselling before founding his own company, W. Swan Sonnenschein & Allen, with the first of several partners, J. Archibald Allen, in 1878. This partnership was dissolved in 1882 when William married and the firm's name changed to W Swan Sonnenschein & Co. The firm published general literature and periodicals but specialised in sociology and politics, including the renowned book series *The Library of Philosophy* (1890-1911). It was also notable for publishing some of the first English translations of both Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, as well as periodicals and literature by authors such as J. M. Barrie, Henry James, George Meredith and George Moore. William himself was connected to a number of socialists and activists, publishing works from George Bernard Shaw and Edward Carpenter, along with literature from the Ethical Society, of which he was a member.

Swan Sonnenschein became a limited liability company in 1895, with William leaving the firm in 1902 to work as senior managing director at George Routledge & Sons. He would later take up a further directorial position at Kegan Paul. Eventually Swan Sonnenschein became amalgamated with fellow publishing

company George Allen & Co. in 1911, with the now-merged firm rebranding again as George Allen & Unwin Ltd by 1914.

**SSC 1** Letter books  
21 Jun 1879 - 10 Jul 1911  
The published index to these letter books was originally compiled from the handwritten indexes at the beginning of each letter book, however these were found to be inaccurate, so a new index was compiled from the letters themselves once they had been microfilmed. The index is compiled of recipients of letters sent by William Swan Sonnenschein.

51 volumes

**SSC 1/1** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 1  
21 June 1879-8 July 1880

1 Volume

**SSC 1/2** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 2  
4 October 1881-4 May 1882

1 Volume

**SSC 1/2B** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 2B  
3 April 1883-24 August 1883

1 Volume

**SSC 1/3** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 3  
7 November 1884-3 September 1885

1 Volume

- SSC 1/4** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 4  
3 September 1885-25 March 1886
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/5** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 5  
25 March 1886-5 October 1886
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/6** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 6  
6 October 1886-18 March 1887
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/7** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 7  
18 March 1887-27 August 1887
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/8** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 8  
29 August 1887-8 December 1887
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/9** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 9  
15 December 1887-13 April 1888
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/10** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 10  
13 April 1888-11 September 1888
- 1 Volume

**SSC 1/11** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 11  
10 September 1888-14 February 1889

1 Volume

**SSC 1/12** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 12  
14 February 1889-10 July 1889

1 Volume

**SSC 1/13** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 13  
10 July 1889-1 November 1889

1 Volume

**SSC 1/14** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 14  
31 October 1889-31 March 1890

1 Volume

**SSC 1/15** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 15  
2 April 1890-13 September 1890

1 Volume

**SSC 1/16** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 16  
15 September 1890-5 February 1891

1 Volume

**SSC 1/17** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 17  
4 February 1891-17 July 1891

1 Volume

**SSC 1/18** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 18  
17 July 1891-3 December 1891

1 Volume

**SSC 1/19** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 19  
3 December 1891-16 May 1892

1 Volume

**SSC 1/20** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 20  
16 May 1892-31 October 1892

1 Volume

**SSC 1/21** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 21  
31 October 1892-9 May 1893

1 Volume

**SSC 1/22** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 22  
9 May 1893-5 October 1893

1 Volume

**SSC 1/23** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 23  
5 October 1893-29 March 1894

1 Volume

**SSC 1/24** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 24  
29 March 1894-12 September 1894

1 Volume

**SSC 1/25** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 25  
12 September 1894-25 February 1895

1 Volume

**SSC 1/26** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 26  
25 February 1895-19 September 1895

1 Volume

**SSC 1/27** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 27  
30 September 1895-23 March 1896

1 Volume

**SSC 1/28** Letter book of outgoing letters, originally labelled volume 28  
24 March 1896-15 December 1896

1 Volume

**SSC 1/29** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 29  
15 December 1896-27 October 1897

1 Volume

**SSC 1/30** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 30  
1 July 1897-11 July 1898

1 Volume

**SSC 1/31** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 31  
12 July 1898-2 March 1899

1 Volume

**SSC 1/32** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 32  
3 March 1899-16 November 1899

1 Volume

**SSC 1/33** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 33  
16 November 1899-10 August 1900

1 Volume

**SSC 1/34** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 34  
10 August 1900-17 May 1901

1 Volume

**SSC 1/35** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 35  
17 May 1901-20 January 1902

1 Volume

**SSC 1/36** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 36  
20 January 1902-28 August 1902

1 Volume

**SSC 1/37** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 37  
28 August 1902-25 March 1903

1 Volume

**SSC 1/38** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 38  
26 March 1903-18 December 1903

1 Volume

**SSC 1/39** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 39  
18 December 1903-15 September 1904

1 Volume

**SSC 1/40** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 40  
30 June 1904-11 April 1905

1 Volume

**SSC 1/41** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 41  
10 April 1905-18 December 1905

1 Volume

**SSC 1/42** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 42  
18 December 1905-17 October 1906

1 Volume

**SSC 1/43** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 43  
18 October 1906-29 July 1907

1 Volume

**SSC 1/44** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 44  
29 July 1907-28 June 1908

1 Volume

**SSC 1/45** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 45  
30 June 1908-10 May 1909

1 Volume



- SSC 1/46** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 46  
10 May 1909-7 April 1910
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/47** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 47  
8 April 1910-6 March 1911
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/48** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled volume 48  
6 March 1911-10 July 1911
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/49** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled Miscellaneous  
volume 1  
8 May 1890-9 October 1913
- 1 Volume
- SSC 1/50** Letter book of outgoing letters originally labelled Miscellaneous  
volume 2 - MISSING 17/12/2018 EB  
23 November 1901-27 June 1911
- 1 Volume